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Feast for the eyes
Brad Archer and Kim Switzer take in the Northern Lights on Oct. 10, during a dazzling display that could be seen across the county. Photo was snapped by Memphis Switzer. /Submitted

Cell tower causes tension between locals and council

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A group of concerned citizens are questioning the decisions of local council when it comes to the development of a 90 foot Rogers cell tower on Minnicock Lake Road. "The area is a designated wetland by the county," said Dysart resident Michael Butz. "They've been making a terrible mess."

The tower has been a point of contention since 2022, when the project was first proposed to the former sitting council. At the time, the proposal was shut down by councillors, only to be revisited less than a month later, and approved to move forward on Aug. 23 of the same year.

"I have no idea why they changed their minds," said Butz, "I never got a proper explanation. I assume they were getting a lot of pressure from Rogers, but the whole thing was really rammed through. They chose to ignore the official

see ANIMALS page 2

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Animals at risk spotted at construction site

from page 1

plan."

In a rural community where zoning and bylaws are notoriously difficult due to the stickiness of metaphorical red tap, Butz and his neighbours find the speed at which this proposal is moving ahead to be suspicious. "Rogers and their reps did not want any public input, because public input would set a precedent," said Joanne MacDonald, a Dysart resident whose home would be impacted by the tower.

And she's not the only one affected by the build.

A group has sprouted up on Facebook, titled Enough Cell Towers in Haliburton, where members are vocal about council's decision to move ahead with the tower. There are concerns about the health and safety of the towers themselves, as well as the danger to the local environment, and the property values of the homes in direct vicinity of the proposed tower. Over 100 concerned citizens signed a petition, and delivered it to the former council to voice their concerns over the build.

While the tower was approved by a former sitting council, current mayor of Dysart, Murray Fearrey, was approached for his thoughts regarding the ongoing build. "I have no planning information that would indicate that it was a wetland," he told the *Echo*. "However, if the soil doesn't stabilize I would wonder about Rogers going ahead and installing a tower. I'm sure engineers will be consulted."

The tower was the first project to come to the community through the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's (EORN) cell gap initiative.

From the 2022 council meeting in which the initiative was first proposed, EORN had set forth a lofty goal of 99 per cent connectivity across the county by 2025. The gaps in internet access is a common vexation amongst locals and visitors alike; but Butz believes that this tower isn't the answer.

"We have been doing our research, and looking at a ton of topographical maps," he said. "We found another spot. On Crown Land. It's within 10 kilometres of the proposed site, with no residence within a kilometre."

But Butz says that no one was interested in hearing his suggestions.

So much so, that they muted his microphone while he tried to voice his concerns during a council meeting. "I was muted because I made the suggestion that it was wet. No one wanted to listen."

He noted that he has recently seen a Blanding's turtle at the site, which is threatened under the Ontario Endangered Species Act, and officially endangered under the federal Species at Risk Act. And that's just one of the many species trying to survive in the area that's currently being torn apart.

Construction on the site started at the end of the summer, and so far, without any known environmental assessments, it does not seem to be going smoothly. "They went to put an anchor in, and the excavator started sinking [into the mud]," said Butz. "There's never been any filter cloth, and I think the excavator must have overheated. There was a huge amount of smoke."

An excavator sinks into the mud at the Minnicock Lake Road site. Work was being done to develop the land for a future Rogers cell tower. /Photo submitted.

Butz and his supporting neighbours shared that they hope the whole project folds, in light of the challenges faced with the property. "I'm hoping they shut the whole thing down," he said. "That property is something that's supposed to be there for our grandchildren."

At the time of publication, construction had been temporarily halted. The *Echo* will continue coverage as this story develops.

Vandalism represents 'gap' in understanding; Minden Pride speaks out

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

An act of vandalism at Head Lake Park in Haliburton has tripped alarms for Minden Pride.

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The community organization was approached early last week, when some passerby in the park noticed homophobic slurs etched into the woodwork at the bandstand, overlooking Head Lake. The municipality, as well as the local police forces, were made aware of the vandalism, and while the slurs have since been sanded down, the mark they made on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community have cut deeper.

"This is not something we take lightly," said Chris Hewson, the co-chair of Minden Pride. "When you deface something in public like that, you're not directing it at one person. You're directing it to a whole community."

Minden Pride was formed in 2016, in light of the tragic shootings that occurred at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, which coincided with homophobic graffiti being plastered across a Haliburton storefront.

Since their conception, the volunteer not-for-profit committee has grown exponentially; from their early days of a flag raising and cake to a week-long festival that includes events and experiences for everyone. "I am so proud to be a part of Pride," said Hewson. "There's a spirit of unity, and we can really make an impact on that education, and that need for discourse."

Hewson shared that the act of vandalism represents a gap between education and understanding. "Sometimes that gap can feel like a little crack, and sometimes it can be a gulf," he said. "It's disheartening."

In terms of moving forward, Hewson believes that by filling in that educational gap, more people can begin to understand and accept Pride in the community. "We need to be a part of more conversations," he said, "to ensure we have a seat at the table."

He noted that many see Pride as "a little blip" in the year, and the organization aims to continue the conversation around inclusivity and understanding year-round. "We are diverse, open, and welcoming," said Hewson, "and we need to show up. That's so important."

All are welcome to attend any of Minden Pride's year-round events.

For more information, visit mindenpride.ca.

Council to consider boat launch repairs when writing budget

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

The Eels Lake boat launch has needed repairs for about two years.

And Highlands East resident Ross Campbell told township council Oct. 8 that the Eels Lake boat launch should get the attention it needs now.

It's the only free launch on the lake and it's used by Highlands East and North Kawartha residents, local fishermen, cottagers, and visiting campers.

"It's a very busy facility," he said.

The launch ramp was somewhat usable until the fall of 2022, despite it being in hard shape, he said. There had been no maintenance, no rebar visible in the concrete, and the concrete was disintegrating. The ramp was short by 30 feet at low water.

"Which means that any vehicle trying to retrieve a boat in low water, the wheels were completely off the ramp," Campbell said. "There was also some dangerous conditions. There was underwater boulders and logs, and some vehicles and trailers got stuck and some were damaged."

Those conditions may cause injuries to people and result in lawsuits to the municipality, he said.

"We thought it was time to bring this to everybody's attention," he said.

Gravel was added past the ramp's bottom and sides in 2022. But cars were still becoming stuck in the soupy bottom. A large load of river rock was dumped on the ramp in late 2023 before being spread over the concrete ramp's top.

"This made the ramp almost unusable, like ball bearings on top of the concrete," Campbell said, and added that many vehicles were stuck.

So the township removed the river rocks, pushed them to the side so that a large pile emerges at low water, and the launch is back to the unfavourable 2022 condition.

Access point signage was falling over and there was a need for No Parking signs to prevent vehicles from impeding access to the Eels Lake. No action has been taken on those signage requests.

"To our knowledge of who is responsible for the winter placement of the dock, moving the dock, and maintenance," he said. "The dock was sitting on a huge boulder and it was causing serious damage to the dock itself."

Dock anchors are without chains and the dock wasn't properly attached to its stairs.

"So kind of a mess with the dock," Campbell said, and added that he lives close to the landing. He routinely gets requests for assistance from people whose boats are damaged or stuck at the ramp. He doesn't have the equipment needed to provide the help, he said.

Eels Lake itself presents a challenge due to the extreme fluctuations in water level.

Kennisis Lake in nearby Haliburton has a launch structure that's approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources. It has pre-formed concrete slabs that reach from dry land to far below the low water level.

"That's what we recommend being done," Campbell said. "Complaining is one thing, but suggesting solutions may make this a reality."

The work would have to be carried out in low water conditions in the fall of the year.

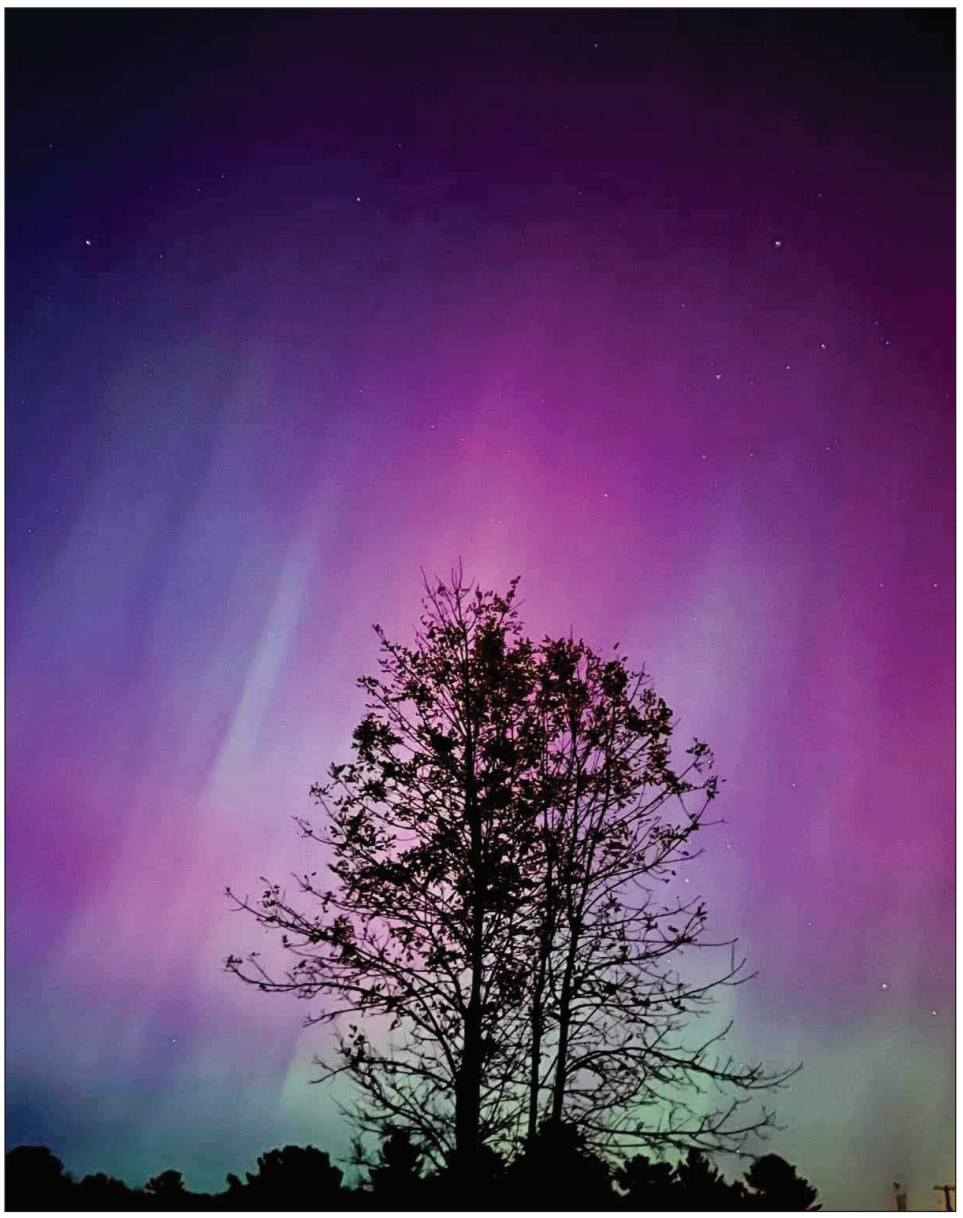
"Maybe this fall," he suggested. "I don't know."

"Ross, maybe just a side note, you didn't mention the brushing," Mayor Dave Burton said.

"No. Why should I give you credit for things you did right," Campbell quipped, drew chuckles. "It's been noticed by all the people that use that road that they now have clear sight lines in travelling the road."

Burton said the Eel's Lake boat launch needs will be discussed when council begins the work to hash out the 2025 municipal operating and capital budget.

"It has been challenging not only for you people (but) for my staff as well," Burton said.



Pretty in purple

Whether you saw them in real life, or all over social media, the Northern Lights were in full force on Oct. 10, and into the early hours of Oct. 11 across Haliburton County. Many flocked to boat launches or lookouts to capture the magnificent lights. /Submitted by Kim Switzer

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Fix bridges now or pay dearly later, says consultant

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

A consultant hired to inspect the county's bridges and culverts urges investment now to stave off higher costs in the future.

Harold Kleywegt, the managing director of Keystone Bridge Management Corp., laid out details of the 2024 biennial bridge inspections findings to Haliburton County council Oct. 9.

That's the consultant that has been inspecting local bridges the last four years. This year's report marked the third assessment they've carried out.

Inspectors had eyes on 41 structures. Of those, 17 were bridges and 24 were culverts greater than three metres. Three of the culverts should be replaced by 2028 and as many bridges need work classified as "comprehensive rehabilitation."

Think about that the next time you're putting rubber to a bridge on a Sunday drive.

Of the 41 structures, as many as 16 of them are 40 to 60 years old. A structure in Dorset is 117 years old. Actually, that Dorset bridge and one in West Guilford are among the bridges needing some significant work in the short term.

The 16 structures that are 40 to 60 years old are going to have significant needs in the near future, Kleywegt said.

According to the report, the Inlet Bay Culvert and one at McGillivray Road each have three years of service life remaining. The Wood Box Culvert has an estimated six years, the Horseshoe Lake Bridge has nine years, there could be 11 years left for the Kingscote Road Culvert, and the Esson Lake could have an estimated 13 years of life remaining.

Consultants have pegged structure replacement value at $94 million for bridges and $27.6 million for culverts that were inspected. That's a $121.5 million asset replacement value.

Kleywegt said inspections identified about $8 million in capital needs required by the county by 2030.

But it isn't all distressing news as county investment in its structure inventory since 2020 has yielded positive benefits.

"Recent investment over the past four years by Haliburton (County) has significantly improved the depreciated value of your structure inventory," Kleywegt said. "In fact, the depreciated value has improved by about 7.5 per cent. The investment by Haliburton is yielding significant benefits."

In the next decade there will be a projected $6 million in replacement costs. The 10 to 20 years following that decade, the county could face about $14 million in replacement cost needs.

"As time progresses, the requirement to replace structures and the associated cost increases dramatically up until about 40 to 50 years hence," he said. "In the decade from 40 to 50 years hence, we're forecasting about a $31 million need for structure replacement."

And that's why it is important for the county to invest in bridges and culverts now before the significant needs catches up and overwhelms the county budget.

"Effective management now to extend the life of these structures will pay dividends and will help reduce the burden that's forecast 40 to 50 years hence," he said.

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said the assessments paint a clear and daunting picture.

Given the age of the Dorset bridge, Councillor Jennifer Dailloux, the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said it is difficult to overestimate its heritage value. She wondered if the work that's required to save that bridge would compromise its historical worth.

"It's iconic," she said.

"It is a lovely bridge and I do appreciate that it is iconic to the community," Kleywegt said. "The bridge is old and tired and it load-posted and that's a responsible thing to do."

He said there is significant corrosion. Much of that corrosion is visible, but it's the damage that isn't seen that's most concerning.

"There's significant risk when you continue to keep a structure such as that in service," he said. "To help overcome the risk, what's required is more intense, more regular, and more thorough inspection."

The level of the inspection carried out in the recent assessment was generous but "only based on standing on the ground and climbing over the bridge, looking over the edges," he said.

Basically, that leaves inspectors relying on what can be seen and speculating on what can't be observed.

Councillor Bob Carter, Minden Hills' mayor, asked about the standards by which bridges and culverts are assessed, how they're awarded any kind of condition rating.

"In terms of the condition of the structures, the individual reports are your best source to get a better understanding of the condition of each structure," Kleywegt said. "There are photographs, there's documentation on each of the components of the structure such as the deck, the abutments, the inside of a culvert."

Council supports grant request for arena upgrades

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Keith Tallman Memorial Arena's infrastructure needs should be addressed, even if Highlands East isn't successful in getting provincial grant money.

Brittany McCaw, the township's CAO and treasurer, asked for council's support for an application to the provincial government's $200-million Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund. It's money set aside to help revitalize existing sport and recreation infrastructure and to build new facilities. The grant is available in two streams of use.

Stream 1 will be to repair and upgrade existing facilities to be more accessible and better meet an area's needs. Projects will receive between $150,000 to $1 million and must be completed within 24 months. Recipients will be required to fund 50 per cent of the overall project costs.

Stream 2 is to build new facilities to replace existing buildings that have reached the end of their lifespan. Projects will receive up to $10 million in funding and must be completed by March 31, 2027.

McCaw said staff plan to make an application for Stream 1 funding. And she asked that council commit the township's share of the funding in the municipal operating budgets over the next two years.

Staff recommends an application to repair and upgrade various pieces of refrigeration system equipment in the Keith Tallman Memorial Arena. Various pieces of critical equipment will need to be replaced in the coming years.

To ensure a fully functioning refrigeration system, it is being recommended that funding be sought to replace the VC1-125 condenser, N6WA compressor and oil separator, two 7.5-ton mechanical dehumidifiers, and a pair of electric desiccant dehumidifiers.

The whole package is tallied to cost $401,320 plus taxes. That means the municipality and the province will pay $200,660 each. Council could budget for half the township's share in each of next year and 2026.

"Replacement of these pieces of equipment will extend the useful life of our arena facility, make it more energy efficient, improve ice quality, cut down on unexpected repairs and maintenance currently required on our old equipment, show cost savings, and enhance the user experience," she said.

Demand by community groups in and around Haliburton County for arena usage has increased. Rental prices in neighbouring municipalities continue to increase and many groups are struggling to offer affordable programming to users.

With an increase in arena rentals and usage, ice production needs to be at its prime. The increased usage of the facility also increases the demand on the ice making equipment and refrigeration system.

"Rental prices in our neighbouring municipalities continue to increase so many groups are struggling to offer affordable programming to their users," McCaw said. "We offer a reasonable prime and community rate to our groups and our goal is to utilize the facility rather than have it sit empty."

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall said endorsing the grant application is something council needs to do. It's as simple as that.

"Otherwise we'll get out of the rink business and that's really not the way to go," he said.

Given the municipality has already transferred $25,000 to a reserve fund, they would have to raise $75,000 through taxation in the 2025 budget for half the township's share the first year.

"Saying that, $200,000 is a lot better than $400,000 to the tax base," McCaw said.

"Any day of the week and twice on Sunday," Ryall quipped.

Ryall suggested council should consider the necessity of the work that needs to be done at the arena.

"In the event that we are not successful (with a grant application), it sounds like we should really look at appropriating more reserve money to this project regardless," he said.

"In the event we're not successful, we'll still probably be putting some monies away to start trying to save up to replace these pieces of equipment," McCaw said.

County helps Aging Together as Community launch new project

The County of Haliburton is pleased to be named a recipient of the 2024-2025 Seniors Community Grant to support Aging Together as Community's [ATAC] new project, Bridging the Gaps.

"I am greatly appreciative for this funding from the Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility to help support programming for seniors in Haliburton County," said Liz Danielsen, Warden, County of Haliburton. "This partnership between the Province, the County, and Aging Together as Community positively benefits the senior population and County as a whole."

The Bridging the Gaps project will provide social, health, fitness, educational and digital literacy programming to help rural, low-income and 2SLGBTQIA+ seniors stay active, connected and living independently throughout Haliburton County. The project was awarded $25,000 through the Seniors Community Grant Program.

"This funding is perfect timing for ATAC," said Paul Moore, ATAC Steering Committee member. "Our programme not only fits with the priorities of the Seniors Community Grant Program of reducing isolation, being connected, accessing services and programs and increasing supports for health prevention and health promotion, but also, is extremely timely overlapping with some of the outcomes and directives from our recent community survey."

The provincial funding will enable ATAC to continue its goal of bringing more seniors throughout Haliburton County together in inclusive meetings both virtually and in-person. Meetings will also provide an opportunity for participants to hear from speakers on a variety of educational topics such as Navigating the Health Care System and Understanding Digital Technology, while sharing a healthy meal and having time to socialize and make friends.

"The renewed support for Aging Together as a Community is welcome news for Haliburton County," said Laurie Scott, Member of Provincial Parliament for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. "Our government is continuing their commitment to helping seniors stay active and healthy in our community and across our province."

Haliburton County has a rural population of more than 20,000 residents, with over 35 per cent of residents being 65 or older.

Submitted

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Published by **White Pine Media Corp**

CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2018

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A fall reflection at Head Lake — by Lavdeep Jallandhra

Editorial

Words hurt

emily stonehouse

HERE WE go again.

Another editorial to remind our community that there's no place for hate here.

When I spoke to Minden Pride co-chair Chris Hewson this past week about the homophobic vandalism in Head Lake Park, he used the word "disheartening".

"I'm not trying to take anything away from anyone," he said, in reference to merely existing. "I'm trying to add to our community."

Adding love, adding colour, adding inclusivity, adding diversity.

Isn't there room for those things?

Once the vandalism had been discovered, it was quickly removed; the pillars sanded down to remove the carved out cuts.

The gashes dug deeper than the surface, though. And even once they were smoothed out, the bruises were far from healed.

Now, on the pillar of the bandstand, there is a mark. An etching where the damage was erased, lightened, sanded down. Gone, but still screaming that it was there. Different. Different. Different.

A reminder of the hate.

When words are put out in the world, it's amazing how many stick. When there's deeply embedded malice behind those words, they have a tendency to cut even deeper.

We were all taught that sticks and stones break bones, but sometimes the reality is that words hurt even more.

Hewson believes that the words come from a place of misunderstanding. A gap in education and compassion.

And maybe that's true. Maybe the people that spew the poisons of hatred into the world quite simply just need to feel more love themselves. And if that's the case, I hope they find that someday.

I hope they realize that organizations such as Minden Pride are designed to include, to support, to love, and to see everyone for who they are, and who they truly want to be.

Because in order to raise children in this world, I have to convince myself that mean people can be changed. That one day, they will feel loved. One day, they won't feel the need to fill whatever gaps and voids there are in their own self awareness, with the need to unleash hatred into the world.

One day.

Words can be erased, e-mails can be deleted, vandalism can be sanded down.

But at the end of the day, they all leave a mark. Sometimes that mark is a patch of rough wood on a pillar, and sometimes it digs deeper. Sometimes it hits people where it really hurts, and that dark place that screams different, different. different, can be a hard place to crawl out of.

Remember that your words make a difference. A few letters sewn together can make all the difference between inclusion and bullying. Between acceptance and ostracizing. Between love and hate.

And even once those words are gone, their meanings never die.

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Green meadow

Tales from the great

lynda shadbolt

The pause

IF YOGA has taught me one thing over the years, it is the power of the pause.

Anytime of day or night we can take a moment and pause. It's a little mini reset.

In a way, we remember our goodness, our belonging, our connections. We become present.

We always start our yoga and qigong practice with a pause. We arrive in the studio, we settle onto our mats and we become quiet and still. We take a few moments to create some space between our day and our busy lives, and arrive into the warm and cozy studio to attend and befriend ourselves. To be curious and present with whatever is going on for ourselves.

In this pause we tune into the life that is within us. And we offer kindness and gratitude for the life within. For our hearts that are beating. Our lungs that are breathing us. Our digestive system that is processing the food we eat. Our bones. Our muscles. Our blood. Our brain. Kindness and gratitude for this entire inner life. We sense ourselves from the inside out. We never take any of it for granted.

And as we move through many different poses and shapes in the class, we continue to offer our inner universe kindness and gratitude. And at the same time we also offer kindness and gratitude to all of life that is around us.

I love this practice so much. Even on the grumpiest of days I always feel brighter and lighter and more spacious when I intentionally offer kindness and gratitude to myself and to all of the life around me.

I went to Those Other Movies on Thursday evening and watched *Ezra*. It is a story of a family who are raising a son who has autism.

It has an excellent cast and I felt many emotions as I watched it. I highly recommend it. After the movie my friends and I went out and were greeted by the Northern Lights. We knew they were going to be out and so off we headed on an adventure to find them.

We drove looking for dark places to see them, and ran into others doing the same thing. Columns of light filled the sky. Ribbons of soft colours. It was so beautiful. And the moon was out shining brightly. We watched stars as they started to come out. It was very magical.

In a moment like this I am so grateful for all of the life that is around me. I pause and I soak it all in. I stand there with my friends and I take my time to absorb it all. The lights and the sky. The friendships. The cool fall air. My mom was with us and I was grateful to have this time and adventure with her.

John O'Donohue (1956-2007) is an Irish poet whose poetry I love. In his blessing *For One Who is Exhausted* he encourages everyone to pause, to pay attention to their senses and be excessively gentle with themselves. Healing can happen in the pause.

points of view

A hard sell

steve galea

Loon Tales

I BELIEVE THAT just as you can age a tree by the rings in its trunk, you can age a person by the ads that show up in their email folder. Lately, I have been getting frequent ads that are trying to sell me a cure for toenail fungus.

To be clear, I have never been afflicted by this horrible affliction – which is, I imagine, the bane of open-toed shoe models and sandal manufacturers everywhere.

You might find this surprising but, until these e-mails started flooding my inbox, I did not even have a passing interest in toenail fungus.

Also, as embarrassed as I am to admit it, I know absolutely nothing about it – other than, it's probably the one fungus mushroom collectors shy away from. And, honestly, even that's just a guess.

Yet, somewhere, in some Madison Avenue ivory tower, an advertising executive thought to himself, "You know what? I love a good challenge…"

Or more likely, this is one of those impossible projects they gave to the intern.

"Look kid," some old hand probably said. "If you want to move up in this firm, you need to prove that you've got the right stuff. We've never been able to crack the lucrative, on-line toenail fungus cure market. You think you are up to it, kid?"

"Yes sir," this bright-eyed newbie probably said.

"Great," his boss replied. "Here's Steve Galea's email address."

So, here we are.

Between you and me, I have been routing these emails directly to my spam folder for more than a few weeks now. But they keep coming. And, every time I check my spam folder, I am reminded that the world is a horrible place. Toenail fungus isn't all that great either.

I suppose that they are trying to break down my strict, "Don't buy a medicinal product you don't need from an on-line company you don't know or trust" policy.

I can't say its working. But I will concede that I have thought about toenail fungus a lot more than usual these days. And, frankly, I can see a future that I had never previously considered.

Look, I'm not saying I want to get toenail fungus. That would be awful. But if I do, I am pretty sure I would consider becoming a brand ambassador for a toenail fungus cure, if the opportunity arose. Not to brag, but this is the type of endorsement that is on par with my celebrity status.

Plus, I think I could make a real difference.

For one thing, I believe I could further raise awareness of this socially debilitating ailment. And perhaps, if all goes well, I could be the face of toenail fungus. Heck, I might even get a lucrative sponsorship from Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails. I always say, if you are going to dream, dream big.

This is virtually an unexploited market.

That's why I'm considering making this pitch to the people who e-mailed me and raised my awareness of this condition. I will be sending them all my ideas to raise even more awareness about this ailment. Also, I'll include a photo of my toes, so they could use is as the "after" photo in any ads for toenail fungus products. Lord knows, their e-mails showed more than enough "before" photos.

Who knows if they'll respond. The most I can hope for is that they will appreciate the unsolicited e-mails as much as I do.

pic *of the* past

Haliburton Huskies: Front row, from left to right, unknow, unknown, Jim Henry, Boyd Robinson, Joe Iles, Curry Bishop and Len Salvatori. Middle row, from left to right, Herb Baker, Hugh Burke, Mark Schell and Bud Dart. Back row, from left to right, Ab Larue, Fred Roberts, Ron Curry, Raymond Scott, Bun Davidson, Stan Roberts, unknown, Al Blanchard, unknown, Mark Scheffe, unknown and Walley Chambers. /FILE

letters to the editor

Traffic concerns on North Shore Road

To the Editor,

My wife and I agree wholeheartedly with Doug Norris's Letter to the Editor regarding vehicles speeding on North Shore Rd., from Hwy 35 through to the Airport. Everyone could see the sign monitoring and recording their speed in plenty of time to slow down but the five per cent mentioned that did not slow down don't care (but isn't five per cent still too much?).

Again, just last week another tractor trailer came down North Shore and tried to make the turn over the St. Peter's bridge. He made several attempts until someone advised him that he could go along North Shore east to Airport Road then onto 118. He was blocking cars and scraping the guard rails. This happens quite often because with a speed limit of 50 km Google's GPS will suggest North Shore Road as a route to Hwy 118 and Haliburton etc.

This should not be put upon the OPP (already stressed) but handled by the municipality. Can we not just make the speed limit change to 40 km and signed as a communal residential roadway? Too many cars, trucks and taxis are going over the speed limit and making it quite unsafe for people walking on the road, We also suggest that Mr. Thorn leaves his office and take the time to walk east on North Shore Rd. to see firsthand the speeding; but do watch that you don't have to leap into a culvert to avoid being sideswiped.

Phil Carroll,
Haliburton

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

Haliburton bike share program hits the world stage

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The bike share program in the heart of Haliburton, presented in collaboration between the Rotary Club of Haliburton and Algonquin Outfitters, was identified on the global stage as a successful sustainable tourism initiative. /DAVID ZILSTRA staff

Sustainable tourism is a hot topic these days.

And Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO) is taking the steps to do their part when it comes to this mindful approach to tourism.

OHTO held their annual general meeting on Oct. 9 to a Zoom audience of over 50 people. The regional tourism organization is comprised of six counties, 45 municipalities, and 23,840, and highlights Haliburton County and spans right up to Ottawa Valley.

Out of the attendees at the AGM, many were representing Haliburton County businesses; including local accommodations, restaurants, and tourism destinations.

Meghan James, a member of the board of directors from OHTO, kicked off the meeting by thanking those who make the organization thrive. "It's a people business," she said. "We came together in challenging times, and we celebrate successes together."

Going into their 15th year, OHTO welcomes all folks in the tourism world to join their organization. They offer united branding and marketing efforts, inside tips and tricks to succeed in tourism, and one on one support through the highs and lows of travel seasons. "We are an organization that always aims high," said Nicole Whiting, the executive director of OHTO. "And we are proud of what we've been able to accomplish together."

Whiting noted that the organization has been diligently working towards offering useful information to both tourism providers and travelers alike. "We are collecting both qualitative and quantitative data to tell a better story," she said.

And the stories are the core of their advertising strategies. Marketing coordinator Luisa Sorrentino shared how she and the OHTO team have been dedicated to their "locally inspired" campaign over the past year. The premise of the marketing initiative is to highlight the personal stories of community members and businesses, and focus on the stories behind the people, as opposed to an anonymous push to visit OHTO communities.

Sorrentino shared that the campaign was a success, with over twelve million online impressions, and over 34,000 referrals to local operators. The marketing strategy also sent people to the OHTO website, with over 111,000 browsers landing on the site, which markets and promotes local businesses and features.

One of the major highlights of the year was the identification of the bike share program in Haliburton, made possible by the Rotary Club of Haliburton. The program was showcased by Destination Think as one of the top 100 travel innovations to inspire and inform; reaching a global audience. "Travel has the power to give us new perspectives about recreation and transportation when we go home," reads the Destination Think website. "Riding a bike is good fun, good exercise and emission free. And it's not only for vacations and holidays in places like Haliburton, Ontario."

Since 2022, the bikes have been borrowed over 400 times, with an average of 16 used per week in 2023, and an increase up to 28 per week this past summer. The bikes live in Head Lake Park, and are free to rent and use, as long as a security deposit is put in place. Helmets are included in the rental, and Algonquin Outfitters have an agreement with Haliburton Rotary to maintain and support the bike management. Rotary intends to one day add to their current fleet to keep up with demand and interest for the free service.

OHTO linked this bike sharing program back to their sustainability initiatives. "We are going beyond just talk," said Whiting, noting that two years ago, OHTO began their process to implement green step solutions to their local tourism mandates. After a rigorous application process, Whiting and the OHTO team were thrilled to announce at the AGM that they have officially been recognized as a Bronze Certified Destination.

Whiting said that this is a tangible jumping point to which they can continue to build from; to recognize where they are succeeding, and identify areas they can improve with sustainable tourism on the forefront of future marketing and programming directives for the organization.

OHTO encouraged all local tourism businesses, as well as visitors to go to their website at ohto.ca to complete any surveys, and share feedback about the community so that they have working stories to continue to build their brand and recognition. "We want to share your celebrations, and share your successes," said Whiting.

HE sees high resident compliance to septic program

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

Letters have been sent to all Highlands East residents with high risk septic systems.

The communication was part of the township's Septic Maintenance Reinspection Program. Colin McKnight, the municipality's chief building official, told council Oct. 8 that all high, medium and low risk properties have been identified and categorized.

Letters to property owners with identified high risk systems were sent letters during the week of Aug. 26 for follow up.

"We've received a good number of callbacks," McKnight said. "Staff are hopeful we can reduce the high-risk numbers and most of the callers have completed remedial action and we just have to verify such."

In a report to council, McKnight indicated that staff anticipate a continued flow of incoming calls and they expect the number of inspections to increase in the coming months.

We have an additional 40 letters to resend due to address changes on which staff is currently working on," he said.

Staff have recommended that the 2025 program begin with properties on Eels Lake.

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall said he's long been looking forward to the septic program report. He said some of the older inspections such as those on Billings Lake happened in 2017, the program's first year. The 2024 report still lists seven properties on that lake as being of high risk.

The report also references inspections are still outstanding at two properties on Billings Lake.

"Where are we with the high risk (septic systems) because that's what people are concerned about is the number of high risks that are still outstanding," Ryall said.

"I think most of the high risk (systems) have been dealt with," McKnight said. "A lot of them were high risk because they were 40 years old and they had two or three other things."

Ryall asked if it would be possible for council to have a number of high risk properties that remain outstanding on each of the lakes.

"That's not a problem," McKnight said, and added that the tally is a live document that's continually updated with new information. "I'm hopeful if we don't get snow for a couple of months, maybe, we can get a bunch of these done."

Protect yourself and your community

Medical Officer of Health encourages community to reduce the risk by utilizing public health precautions.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is reminding everyone to stay safe this upcoming respiratory illness season by staying up to date on vaccinations. It is recommended that everyone get their flu, COVID-19 and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) shots (if applicable) as soon as they become available.

In early October, flu shots will be available for the most vulnerable and high priority populations, including those hospitalized, health care workers, and residents in long-term care and retirement homes, other congregate settings, and individuals 65 years of age and older. Free flu shots for the public aged six months and older will be available starting on Oct. 28, through participating pharmacies and primary care teams.

Beginning in October, families with infants born in 2024 and high-risk children up to 24 months old will now have access to the publicly funded new RSV immunization. Access to the RSV immunization can be made through their health care provider. Newborns born during the 2024/25 respiratory season, while at hospitals, will also be offered the vaccine. The RSV prevention program has also expanded this fall to include all retirement home residents. For more details on the RSV program, visit Ontario.ca/rsv.

"Let's all continue to protect ourselves and our community by staying up to date on our vaccinations, which include influenza, COVID-19 and RSV," said Dr. Natalie Bocking, Medical Officer of Health and CEO for the HKPR District Health Unit. "Both COVID-19 and flu vaccines are available at local pharmacies and primary care teams. By doing so, we are ensuring our critical health care services are there for those who need them most." The Health Unit will be providing the COVID-19, flu and RSV vaccine to eligible children six months to five years of age only starting in November. To book an appointment call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1507.

How to Reduce Risk of Transmission this Holiday Season

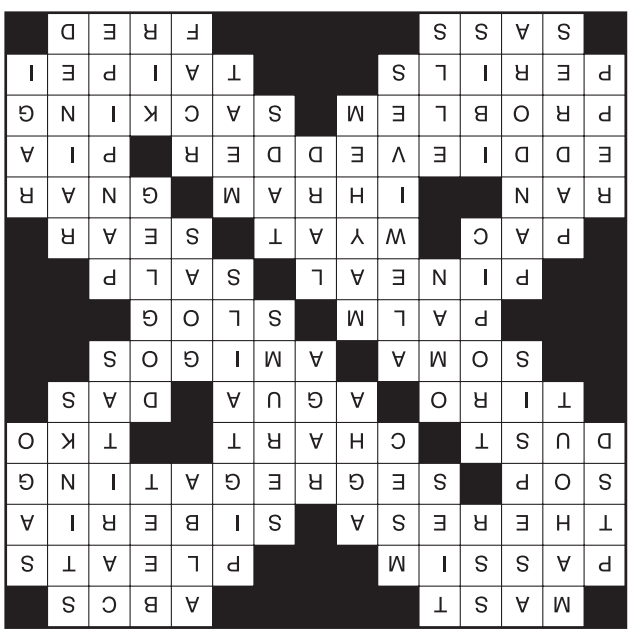
- Stay up to date with your immunizations: COVID-19, flu, and RSV if you are eligible.
- Skip the holiday party if you're not feeling well, stay home when you are sick.
- Consider wearing a mask in crowded indoor spaces, and when recovering from illness. If you are recovering from illness, wear a mask for ten days after your symptoms started
- Wash your hands often, and clean high touch surfaces frequently. If you host or attend a holiday gathering, clean high touch surfaces, and encourage guests to wash their hands frequently or use hand sanitizer
- Protect our health care services. Doing what you can to limit the spread of illness will help ensure our health care workers are available for those who need them most

Furthermore, Ontario offers convenient access to antiviral treatments such as Paxlovid through physicians, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists, with virtual care options available through Health811.

View the HKPR District Health Unit's Respiratory Infections Dashboard.

Submitted

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Fall colours are dwindling down, but not before a show of orange on Kennaway Road in Haliburton. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

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Rotarians Ursula Devolin, John Beachli, Charles Wheeler, Jerry MacDonald take a break from working at Skyline Park. /Submitted

A capture of Skyline shared from the Haliburton Museum.

Rotary Club of Haliburton: Skyline Park capital improvement concept

The Haliburton Rotary Club, celebrating its 80th year of community service in 2024, has an excellent reputation for funding and implementing capital projects to improve our community for all to enjoy. In the past, these projects have included development in Head Lake Park, and the Bandshelter, as well as substantial donations for new playground equipment, the skateboard park, the Welcome Centre, and more.

Their next capital project is improving Skyline Park. The scenic overlook has fallen into disrepair over the past few decades, and the club plans to restore its expansive view and make significant changes to improve visitor experiences over the next few years.

The improvements include the following:

- Remove trees and brush to improve the view (Status: Underway)
- Repair the broken concrete on the existing viewing platform (Status: Complete)
- Construct extensions to the existing viewing platform
- Create a new upper-viewing platform to accommodate people with mobility issues
- Build two new picnic pavilions with concrete pads and covered roofs
- Build year-round accessible washrooms to replace the seasonal toilets
- Provide new benches and picnic tables (Status: on order)
- Improve pathways using recycled asphalt which will not erode and is more accessible
- Draw parking lines to indicate regular and handicapped parking spaces
- Create designated bus parking that allows for safe and easy turnaround
- Install display boards highlighting our community's history and current attractions
- Improve safety fencing and signage
- Remove old stone BBQs (Status: Underway)

Background

Skyline Park is owned by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) and is designated as a rest stop on the provincial highway system. The park was dedicated by Premier Leslie M. Frost on June 20, 1958. Although the MTO maintains the park through a contract with a local company, there has been little or no capital improvement during the past 65 years. The Rotary Club believes it needs repairs and a refresh so the community and tourists can continue to enjoy the park and the spectacular view.

Work to fate

Over the past two years, the Rotary Club has been focused on obtaining permission to undertake capital repairs through an agreement with MTO. Once that was secured, the Rotary Club began developing a concept plan with the help of a professional landscape company. The first phase of work was removing diseased/dead trees and undertaking concrete repairs to the existing sides and front of the viewing platform. They plan to remove trees in front of the viewing platform this fall to improve the view. They will also begin grading this fall if weather permits.

How will they implement the park concept?

Rotary Club members, volunteers, and contracted local businesses will implement the park concept in stages over the next three to four years as funds are available.

Fundraising and community support will be an important part of this project. Though the club has funds allocated for a portion of the work, they will launch community fundraisers for specific phases of the capital improvement project. The club will also accept gifts of materials for the park.

The club would like to thank the Haliburton County Development Corporation for its generous support through the Local Initiatives Program. The financial support provided has contributed greatly to the concept planning and initial work. They would also like to thank the Municipality of Dysart Council for their support and the Haliburton County Tourism department.

For more information about the Rotary Skyline Park project, please contact :

- Chuck Wheeler, Chair, Rotary Skyline Park Project Committee, 416-407-5292, charles.wheeler@sympatico.ca
- Ursula Devolin, Haliburton Rotary Club, 705-455-2037, ursuladevolin@gmail.com.

Submitted

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Thanks to Canadian Heritage for their support

New Italian restaurant moves ahead in Haliburton

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Juna, the new Italian restaurant in downtown Haliburton, is aiming to open their doors by December of this year. /photo submitted

The main street in Haliburton is about to have a taste of Italy on it.

210 Highland Street will be the new home of Juna Restaurant, an upscale Italian restaurant with artisan pizza, pasta, salads, and cocktails.

"It started with us originally looking for staff housing," said Terri Mathews-Carl, one of the co-owners of the new space. "We saw the property that had an apartment upstairs, and thought to ourselves, 'what could we do with the space down below?' We wanted to open something that would complement the downtown, without being a competition."

Mathews-Carl, along with her longtime partner Christoph, are no strangers to the hospitality industry. The two are the current owners of the well-known Rhubarb Restaurant in Carnarvon, which recently expanded to include Rhubies, a cocktail and tapas bar on-site.

"We wanted to build something upscale and a little different," said Mathews-Carl. "And we knew we wanted really, really good homemade pizza and pasta dishes."

The recently acquired building, which was the former home of Cindy's clothing store in Haliburton, will be retro-fitted to accommodate a full kitchen, as well as 32 seats inside. The new owners also intend to bring the dining experience outdoors, with what Mathews-Carl referred to as "a secret garden patio," which will accommodate an additional 30 guests, and have a whimsical ambiance for visitors to enjoy.

Executive Chef Amber Husband, who is well-known in the area for her work with the Post House, will be leading the charge for dining, along with a team of highly experienced chefs and kitchen staff, including Christoph Carl. Local Nico Haedicke, who has experience in both urban and rural fine dining establishments will take the lead for front of house initiatives.

The restaurant hopes to open their doors for December, catering to the local audience before diving into the summer rush. ACM Designs has already jumped in with two feet, and has provided sneak peeks of the vision going into the Juna Restaurant; offering taste and style aligned with the new downtown destination.

"We're pretty thrilled," said Mathews-Carl. "We're just excited to see it all come together."

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Best in Show Award winner, Rod Prouse, in front of his entry, Ditch Flowers, gouache on paper. /Submitted

Best Painting with a Human Figure: Oksana Baczynsky, Head Lake Park, acrylic.

Winners of En Plein Air Haliburton exhibition

Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 En Plein Air Haliburton exhibition, a juried show featuring twenty works created by on-location artists, celebrating the vibrant landscapes of the Haliburton Highlands. The exhibition, which runs from Sept. 28 to Nov. 9, showcases the creative inspiration to be found in the region.

Subtitled, a friendly art competition, entries were juried by acclaimed artist John David Anderson and Rails End Curator Laurie Jones. The 20 finalists are displayed in the gallery and five prizes were awarded. All entries may be viewed at railsendgallery.com online. Together they capture the area's rich natural beauty, unique village architecture, and local life.

2024 Award Recipients:

Best in Show: Rod Prouse for Ditch Flowers – Award: $500 cash (anonymous donor)

Best Town/Village/Architectural-scape: Sue Victoria for The Point at Lake Farquhar – Award: $150 gift certificate for Rails End Gallery Shop.

Best Work 11 x 14 inches or under: Harvey J. Walker for Three Brothers Falls – Award: $150 gift certificate from Martin's Art Supplies and Framing, Bracebridge

Best Work with at Least One Human Figure: Susanne Farrow for Welcome to Gooderham – Award: $150 Gift Certificate for Rails End Gallery Shop.

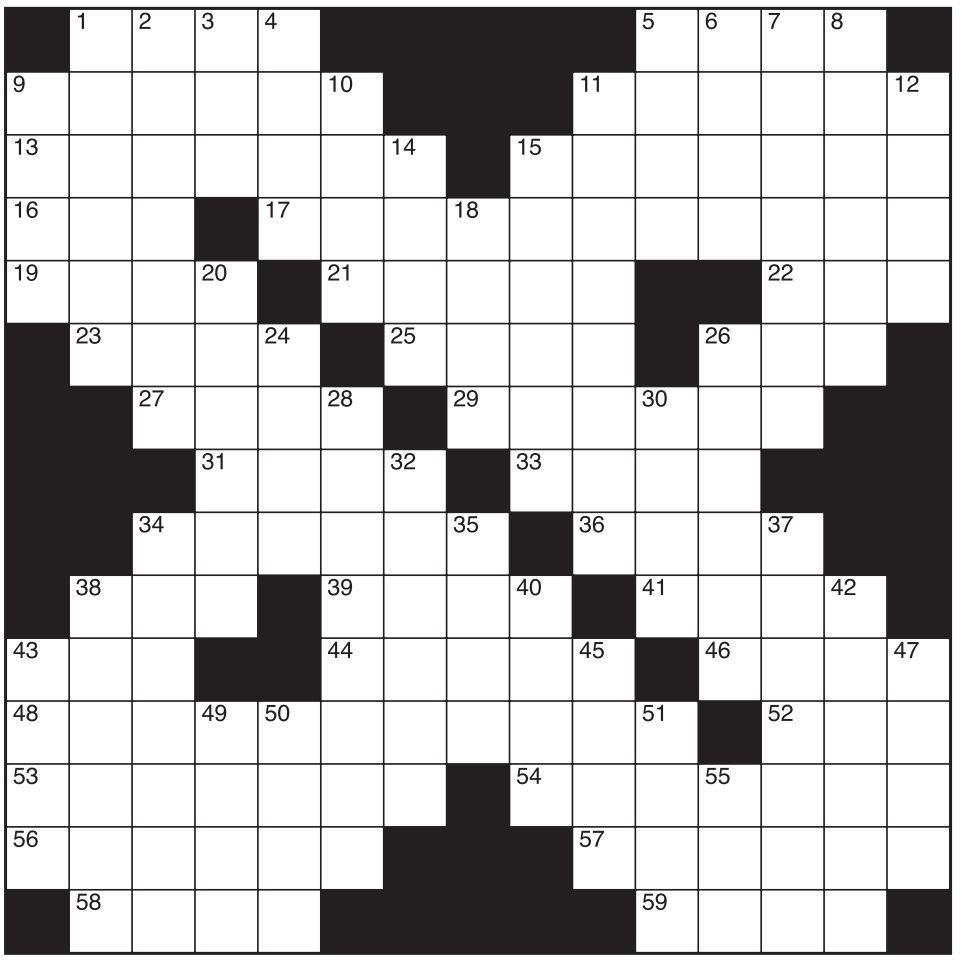
New to Plein Air Painting: Oksana Baczynsky for Head Lake Park – Award: A Mabef Backpackers Easel (value $300), (anonymous donor).

En Plein Air Haliburton celebrates the timeless tradition of plein air painting and the breathtaking scenery of Haliburton Highlands. Angelica Ingram, tourism manager for Haliburton County was on hand for the opening reception, held Sept. 28, and thanked the participants for honouring the area's natural assets with their passion for painting "on location" and their talents.

Notably, each work is accompanied by the location where it was created. Rails End Gallery invites art lovers, tourists, and community members to visit the gallery during the exhibition to experience these captivating works. Watch for the Call for entry for En Plein Air Haliburton 2025 scheduled for next fall.

For more details, please visit railsendgallery.com. Contact: Laurie Jones, Curator & Executive Director Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre, Email: info@railsendgallery.com, 705-457-2330.

Submitted



CLUES ACROSS
1. Tall, upright post on a boat
5. Basics
9. Used to refer to cited works
11. Folds
13. Former UK PM May
15. Cold region of Russia
16. Standard operating procedure
17. Separating
19. Particles
21. A way to map out
22. Referee declares
23. Beginner
25. Water (Spanish)
26. Gov't lawyers
27. Non-reproductive parts of an organism
29. Spanish friends
31. A type of tree
33. Walk heavily
34. About a wood
36. Free-swimming marine invertebrate
38. Political action committee
39. SB19 hit song
41. Scorch the surface of
43. Moved quickly on foot
44. Sacred state for a Muslim
46. Growl
48. Pearl Jam frontman
52. Irritating person
53. Something requiring a solution
54. Firing
56. Hazards
57. Taiwan capital
58. Impudence
59. Rock frontman Durst

CLUES DOWN
1. One who rides an elephant
2. Absence of bacteria
3. Soviet Socialist Republic
4. Men's fashion accessories
5. "Honey" actress Jessica
6. Round red root vegetable
7. Latin term for "charity"
8. Doesn't smell good
9. Mental health issue
10. Millisecond
11. Hairstyle
12. Edible starch
14. Middle Eastern military title
15. Protein-rich liquids
18. Indian musical pattern
20. Cancer and Capricorn
24. Country along the Arabian peninsula
26. A bend
28. Fishes of the herring family
30. Antelopes
32. Chaos
34. Popular music app
35. Cooking material
37. Musical instrument
38. San Diego ballplayers
40. Small amounts
42. Poured
43. Fabric
45. Food option
47. Finger millet
49. The U. of Miami mascot is one
50. Alberta, Canada river
51. Canadian flyers
55. Dry white wine drink

Answers on page 9

DH3 brings Diwali, Festival of Lights to Haliburton

The universal theme of celebrating the light is found in the traditions of many cultures as we move towards the short days of winter. This fall, DH3 is honouring those traditions with a Diwali Festival of Lights on Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Haliburton Legion. Just as the days get to their shortest, we will be brightening up the night with an evening of dance, food, music and performances.

Doors open at 6 p.m. People attending will have an opportunity to learn some traditional Indian folk dances then try out your moves with a live band. This event is suitable for adults, youth and children.

DH3 has a tradition of hosting community dance events for all ages featuring music, dancing and food of various cultures. Salsa Night in Haliburton and Kolomejka for Ukraine. This fall we are very excited to feature a celebration of Indian culture.

We are delighted to welcome Paromita Kar who, together with another dance artist and a guitarist will teach and perform some traditional South Asian Rajasthani folk dance style and Bollywood dances. Paromita has a PhD in Dance Studies from York University and is a performer of the classical Indian Odissi dance, training under Odissi maestro Guru Durgacharan Ranbir of Odisha, India, as well as a performer of folk dances of Rajasthan (Thar desert region of Northwest India).

Music for everyone to dance will be provided by Karim Khimji with his live band of singers and musicians playing traditional instruments including table/dholak and dhol.

Food will be provided by Masala Kraft from Lindsay for a true taste of India. Those attending will have a chance to sample a variety of Diwali celebration treats.

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a major Hindu festival held each fall fostering a sense of unity, love, and gratitude. It symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance through various cultural, religious, and social practices

It's a time for new beginnings, happiness, offerings of food and Indian sweets, dancing and bringing good luck into your life.

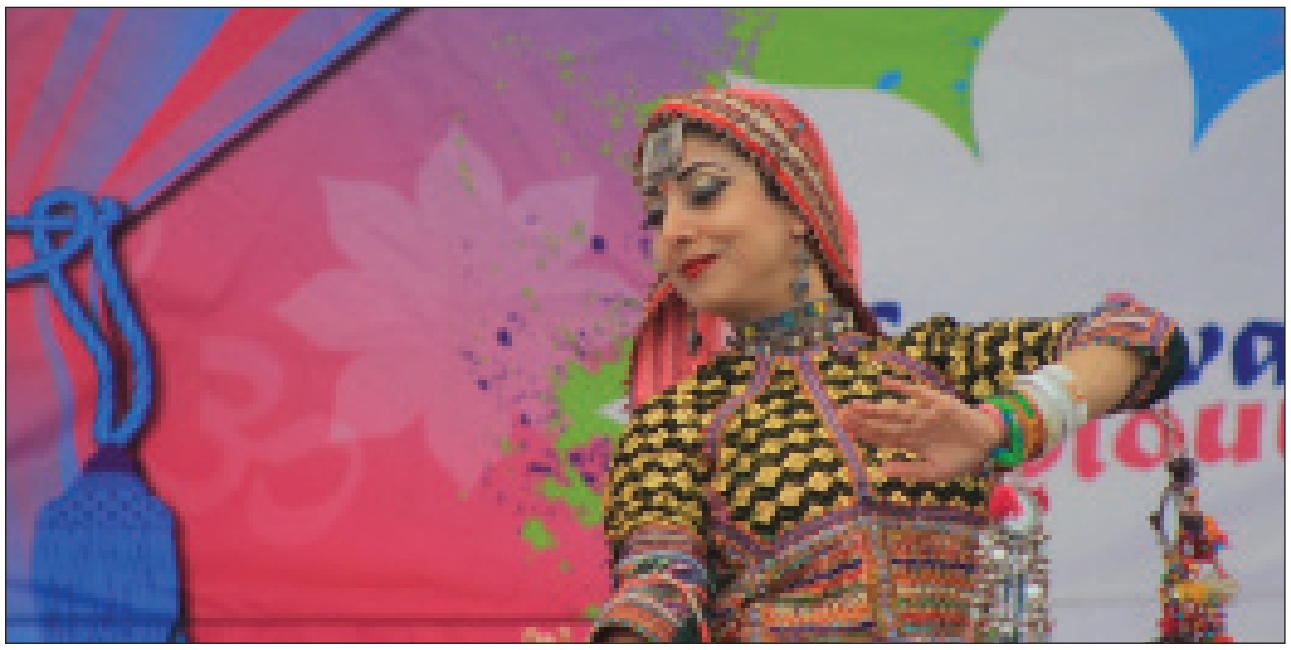
Harsha Manani, a DH3 committee member, and her uncle Jag, two of the co-owners of the Lakeview Motel are from Gujarata, a western state in India. For Gujarati's, Diwali is also the start of the new financial year for businesses, and rituals are conducted to worship Goddess Lakshmi and seek blessings for prosperity. Harsha says, "Diwali has deep religious significance in Hinduism, marking events such as Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya (Holy City) after defeating the demon king Ravana. (Good over Evil!) It is also dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, and involves prayers for prosperity. It is believed that on the night of Diwali, Lakshmi roams the Earth and enters homes that are clean and brightly lit."

Tickets for the event are available on Eventbrite DiwaliHaliburton.eventbrite.ca or in person at Russell Red Records in Haliburton. $25 for adults, $15 for students 18 plus, free for children under 18. Get your ticket early to reserve your spot.

Dance Happens Here Haliburton is a part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative

For more information have a look at the DH3 website dancehappenshere.com or contact Myra Stephen myrastephen52@gmail.com or Harsha Manani info@lakeviewhaliburton.ca

Submitted



DH3 will be hosting Diwali Festival of Lights in Haliburton on Nov. 16. The event is suitable for all ages and everyone is welcome. /Submitted

WANTED

Historical photos from around Haliburton County

Preferably from before 1970

Help revive our *Pic of the Past* section by sending in your pictures. Bring them in to the Echo office at 146 Highland Street or email them to emily@haliburtonpress.com with dates and any other information.

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2025 fundraiser plans put on hold

In response to the evolving landscape of dental care in Canada, Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County (VDO) is adjusting its services to better meet community needs in Haliburton County. With the federal government's continuing rollout of the Canada Dental Care Plan (CDCP), many low-income residents in Haliburton County will now have wide access to affordable dental care, resulting in a decreased patient load at VDO.

Therefore, as of January 1, 2025, VDO will no longer provide dental care through the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

VDO will remain open to provide care to those county residents who do not qualify for the Canada Dental Care Plan but who meet the qualifications for dental care under VDO's original mandate:

Providing free dental care to low-income residents of Haliburton County who do not have dental insurance and who have nowhere else to turn.

In light of these changes, the 2025 Lisa Kerr Memorial Golf Tournament fundraising event has been suspended. The Board will assess future community needs before making further decisions.

The Board of Directors of VDO extends their gratitude to the loyal and generous community for its ongoing support.

You may forward any questions to the Board at vdohccharity@gmail.com.

Submitted

Resources offered for aging in the community

Knowing what's available can be a big help.

Aging together as community invites you to come and hear our healthcare speakers explain how to access their services and answer questions.

Learn the ropes: A road map to healthcare services

Where: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129, 719 Mountain Street, Haliburton

When: Sunday, Oct. 27, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Register by Monday, Oct. 21, by email at atachhevents@gmail.com or call Connie Wood 705-457-7215.

Afterwards, enjoy a casual meal of beef brisket or vegetable chili, buns and pumpkin tart.

Keynote speakers:

Jen Burns-West Chief Nursing Executive and VP Clinical and Community Support Services, Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

Christine Keenan , Project Coordinator, Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Ontario Health Team.

Lauren Wilson, Pharmacist/Owner, Pharmasave, Haliburton Village Pharmacy.

Chris Parish, Commander Clinical Programs, Haliburton County Paramedic Service.

Kim Ballantyne, Senior Manager, Patient Services, Home and Community Care Support Services.

Submitted

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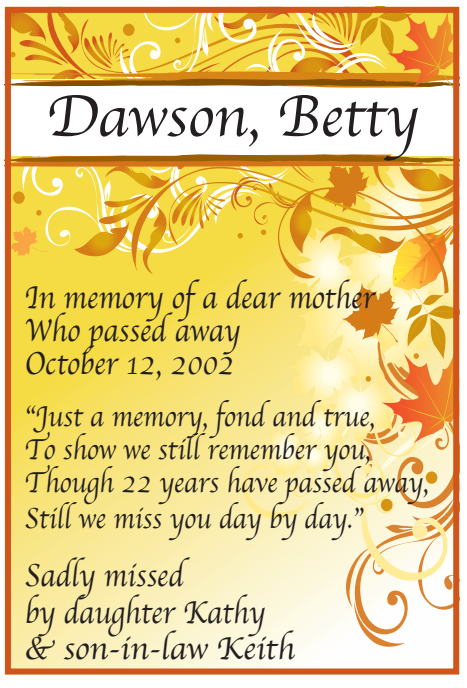
Dawson, Betty
In memory of a dear mother
Who passed away
October 12, 2002
"Just a memory, fond and true,
To show we still remember you,
Though 22 years have passed away,
Still we miss you day by day."
Sadly missed
by daughter Kathy
& son-in-law Keith

640 IN MEMORIAM

Tarleton, Shirley

In loving memory of a dear wife and mom who passed away October 13, 2016.

"There is a place in heaven, where our special angel goes, a place above all others, where love forever flows. Forever loved and missed."

Lovingly remembered by husband Bill and daughter Cheryl

In Loving Memory

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650 OBITUARIES

Percy McBain

"It's a beautiful day"

Peacefully at Lakeridge Health Oshawa on October 1, 2024, surrounded by his family. Beloved husband and friend of Jean McBain for the past 70 years. Loving father of Perry (Wendy) and Lynda (Dan). He will also be remembered as a devoted grandfather and great-grandfather to Ryan (Una), Rachel (Faisal), Megan, and Laila. Percy was a loving and generous husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Percy was a golfer, and when he wasn't getting his steps in on the green, you could find him out on his daily walks. He loved to travel, while also being active in his community. He was previously a member of the Haliburton Curling Club. Before retiring for a relaxing life of golfing, curling, and traveling; he worked Security at GM Oshawa for 39 years. Percy will be remembered not only for his dedication to his friends and family but also for his fun-loving spirit. His grateful nature and kind approach to all made him loved by many.

In the spirit of Percy's grateful nature, the family would like to express many thanks to all the staff at Bloom Retirement Residence in Oshawa, which Percy and his wife called home in recent months. Thanks also go out to the ER and ICU staff at Lakeridge Health Oshawa.

Private Family Service

As per the family's wishes, Percy's life will be honoured in a private celebration. As an expression of sympathy, donations to a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

Community FUNERAL HOME
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Leslie Schell

Les was born in Donald, Ontario on September 5, 1934, where his father Charles (Sarah Ida Sisson) worked as a steam engineer at the Donald Chemical Plant. He was married for 69 years to Ruth (Curry) and loved her dearly until she passed away in March of 2021. They had 3 children, Pam (Rod), Luke (Shelley), and Wendy, who died in a tragic car accident in 1980. Pam and Luke's children, Vanessa, Logan, Chyna, and Quinn were always very involved in their grandparents' lives and will always have fond memories of Grampa and Gramma's home and swimming pool on Mountain Street. He is pre-deceased by his brothers Grenville (Helen), Mark (Edna), and Bill (Marlene), and sisters Eileen (Wallace), Denise (Mark), Verley (Tom), and Anne. He is survived by his brother Dick (Carole Ann).

Les grew up around the various sawmills in the county and first worked at the Kenissis Lake mill when he was 11 years old. He went on to be a very talented Sawyer at the mill and moved to Searchmont, Ontario in 1957, where he spent the next 14 years. He was then offered the Sawyers job in a new Weldwood mill in Huntsville, Ontario where he and Ruth had some very enjoyable years with the gang of "Pot-Lickers" on Forest Glen Road. They moved to Minden in 1974 to work with brother-in-law Joe Rivers (Gwen Curry) in the septic pumping business. Les and Ruth started their own pumping business in Haliburton that same year and the Honey Bee on the side of his tank truck became famous! After operating their business very successfully for 12 years a new owner took over. The iconic Honey-bee can still be seen on the side of one of the latest owners' trucks.

Les was an active member of Saint George's Anglican Church in Haliburton as a Warden and Lay-Reader. He also was a member of the choir for many years. He was a 33rd Degree Scottish Right Mason and had some great and loyal friends there. He could often be heard singing and playing his 12-string guitar in any of the Long Term Care homes with his amazing recall of historical country ballad lyrics. Some with 20 or 30 verses, it seemed. He loved strumming his guitar and singing at family gatherings where the epitome of campfire sing-a-longs was common.

Les will be missed after a successful, fulfilling and mostly happy life by his numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces. He goes to rest with Ruth and Wendy in Evergreen Cemetery in Haliburton.

Funeral Service & Visitation

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario on Thursday, October 10, 2024, for a Visitation beginning at 11:00 and a service celebrating Les' life to follow at noon. As an expression of sympathy donations can be made to the Sick Kids Foundation. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Haliburton Community Funeral Home 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario.

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To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Leslie Schell, please visit our floral store.

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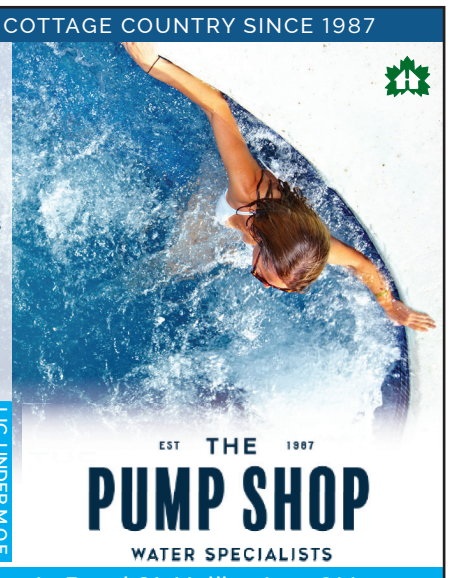

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County Life

THIS WEEK

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Sid Cooper, Robert Heinze unveil their platforms
See page 3 and page 14

SPORTS

REDMEN ARE HOT!

High school football teams are undefeated and getting stronger... see page 8

FEATURE

Animal Kingdom

New children's book writen by a local author
See our Second Section Front Page

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1994

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

"The Voice of the Highlands Since 1882"

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Firemen's speedy response has homeowners grateful

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It was one of those times when seeing is believing.

Kim Cowen had read stories about how quickly the Dysart Fire Department responds to a call, but it wasn't until she was watching her own home go up in flames that she realized just how quickly that was.

On September 30 at 2:52 in the morning, a passerby noticed the fire at the County Road 1 home just west of Haliburton village and called the fire department. Cowen and her husband Murray own the old homestead, but it was rented to a young man who was not at home that night. The Cowens live in another house next door.

Within six minutes, there were 23 volunteer firemen on the scene.

"As much as I'm feeling sick to watch my house go up in smoke, I'm standing there in awe," Cowen says of her reaction as she watched the men try to keep the fire under control. "To hop out of bed and fly down to our place, that was really incredible. Their wives must be really understanding."

Not only were so many men there in record time, but they lost no time in determining what

Please turn to page 14

Glamorgan election signs stolen just days after campaigning begins

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The Minden OPP have been asked to investigate the theft and defacement of more than 70 election signs in Glamorgan.

Councillor Lorrie Saville, who's running for reeve, says the vandalism began shortly after the signs were erected on Wednesday. Some signs were even stolen as the all-candidates debate was held at the community centre on Saturday.

Both she and Councillor Bill Challis, who's running for deputy-reeve, have had 30 signs stolen. Eleven of reeve candidate Elva Bates' signs have been stolen. Red spray paint has been used to deface some of Saville's and Bates' signs.

"We couldn't believe the number of signs that were taken," Saville says. "It's ridiculous."

It is a criminal offence to steal or deface election signs. Rumours are already circulating about who is responsible for the vandalism, she says, but no charges have been laid yet.

Candidates and public argue over expansion

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The expansion of the Glamorgan Community Centre turned out to be the hottest issue at Glamorgan's all-candidates meeting on Saturday afternoon.

But just as there was disagreement among the candidates about whether the costs are justified, there was also disagreement among the 50 people who attended the public meeting at the community centre.

Two people asked whether it's fair for council to spend the majority of its infrastructure money to add onto a building that is used by only 10% of the population. They felt that more money should have been spent on roads, which are used by everyone.

However, a group of residents asked whether it was ethical for council to have taken money which had been raised by volunteers for community centre improvements and spent it on roads.

Under the infrastructure program, the federal, provincial and municipal government chip in one-third of the costs each. To come up with Glamorgan's share of the $127,000 which will be spent on the community centre and $75,000 which was spent on resurfacing three roads, council took money out of a reserve fund. The reserve fund was profits from several fundraising events held over the years for community centre improvements, such as a new kitchen and floor.

> *"We only had your best interests at heart. It will save taxpayers' money. Is that not the ultimate goal?"*
> Bev MacDuff

The issue was first raised by Joan McCausland, who wasn't pleased with the answer from Reeve Bev MacDuff so she asked it again in a different way. Two other questioners phrased the same question in slightly different ways. Eventually, the question boiled down to whether candidates would take money out a fund earmarked for one project and spend it on another project.

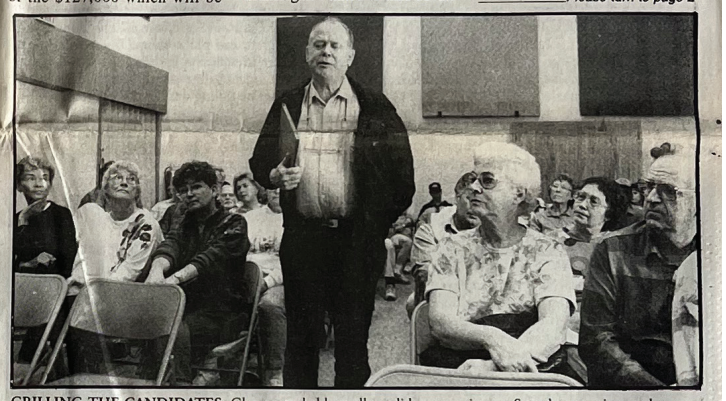
MacDuff, who wants to retain her position as reeve, said if Glamorgan wanted to take advantage of the program to improve roads, taxes would have increased 12.5%. If the roads weren't resurfaced, maintenance costs would increase. It was to taxpayers' advantage to take the municipality's share out of reserves, leaving enough money for the community centre to add on a new kitchen, buy a new dishwasher, install a heating system that will save $2,500 in heating bills a year, install a water filtering system and increase storage space. Because of cost restraints, council was not able to increase the size of the hall or resurface the floor, which "is not a priority."

Later, she also said that reserve funds had also been used for the firehall addition and to pay for the new emergency rescue truck. She added that she is one of the volunteers who has helped raise the money and believes the centre plays an important role in providing organizations a place to hold events for youths. Seniors also use the centre regularly.

"We only had your best interests at heart," she said. "It will save taxpayers' money. Is that not the ultimate goal?

Bill Challis, a councillor who is

Please turn to page 2



GRILLING THE CANDIDATES: Glamorgan held an all-candidates meeting on Saturday morning at the community centre and ratepayers, above, took advantage of the opportunity to find out what the candidates thought about several issues. People have until Friday at 5 p.m. to declare their intention to run for municipal office.

It's a tasty job, but someone's got to do it

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Pie judge speaks of "sacrifices"

AFTER NIBBLING on 25 home-made pies and trying to judge which one of them was the most delicious, Bob Heyes stood in the hallway of the Haliburton Highlands Museum's Reid House and spoke of the "sacrifices" one must be prepared to make on a sunny Saturday afternoon.

Granted, many people would say that the pies that graced the antique tables were worth dying for, but there was little sympathy for Haliburton doctor and his two compatriots. For at least an hour, Dr. Heyes, dietitian Rosie Kadwell and rhubarb queen Ruth Still had the onerous task of tasting a sliver of each of the 25 pies submitted in the Museum's annual Harvest Pie Contest and then judging which ones they liked the best. The only sacrifice they made was fighting their desire to have a second piece, and then a third and maybe even a fourth.

The true sacrifices were made by the pies' bakers, who donated their creations to the auction, much against their families' protestations no doubt. Without these unselfish pie makers, Haliburton would have been a much skinnier place today.

The pies themselves were works of art. The judges swooned over a pumpkin-cheese pie which was decorated with fancy swirls and called it "a Rembrandt." Their bones melted when they bit into a chocolate confection. They snuck surreptitious glances at each other to see if the others would notice if a pie mysteriously disappeared (only to re-appear at the judge's dinner table that night.) Not one of them mentioned cholesterol as they talked about the finer merits of a flaky pie crust. Ah yes, the sacrifices that are made in the interests of Haliburton-kind...

As the expression on Bob Heyes' face shows, the judges in the Harvest Pie Contest had an incredibly difficult task on Saturday afternoon. Twenty-five homemade pies were donated to the Haliburton Highlands Museum and Ruth Still, Dr. Heyes and Rosie Kadwell had to sacrifice a few hours of their Thanksgiving weekend to decide which ones were the best. The pies were later auctioned to a hungry crowd.

In the end, they also had the difficult task of choosing the "Judges' Choice." Museum director Tom Ballantine changed the title from Best Pie to Judges' Choice to allow the judges to give merit to the pie that struck their fancy as well as their tastebuds. This year the prize went to Anita Kuno for her beautifully composed open face pear pie with a hint of ginger and an indescribable crust.

When it came time for the winning pies to be auctioned off, the crowd at the museum could hardly contain itself. Visions of pumpkin pies danced in their heads on this Thanksgiving weekend. Auctioneer Robert Heinze had a hard time keeping up with the flurry of bids from the sugar-starved patrons of this annual public event. "The pies just disappeared," says Ballantine, who had hoped there would be leftovers. After all the excitement and anticipation, it would be interesting to find out if the pies ever made it to Sunday night's Thanksgiving table. Chances are they were only a sweet memory by that time.

Here is a list of the winning pies, with last year's winner Lynn Tashlin once again proving that she has that magic touch...

Apple (1st to 3rd): Lynn Tashlin; Claire Sylvan; and Karen Loukras

Fruit: Lynn Tashlin; Doris Laine and Wendy Wells with a tie for second; and Anne Creelman and Beulah Tyler with a tie for third

Filled: Beulah Tyler; Lynn Tashlin; and Kathleen Costello

Pumpkin: Donna Clarke and Lynn Tashlin tied for first; Leonard Wheeler; and Beulah Tyler.

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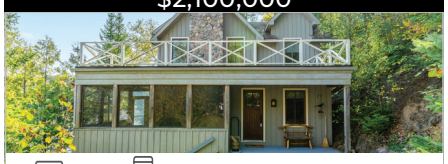

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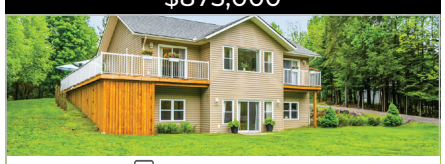
HALIBURTON-BY-THE-LAKE
$875,000



3X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 40586358

HALIBURTON LAKE
$799,000

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40645912

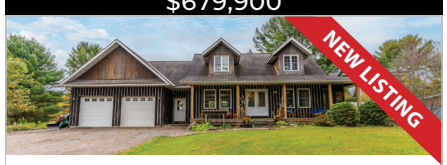
GULL RIVER
$759,900

5 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 40638549

KENNISIS LAKE
$750,000

4 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# 40635394

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS
$679,900

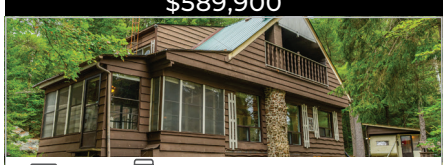


*DEEDED ACCESS TO MAPLE LAKE | MLS# 40655801

ALLEN LAKE - HARCOURT PARK
$595,000

2 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# 40634507

BURNT RIVER
$589,900



2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40642960

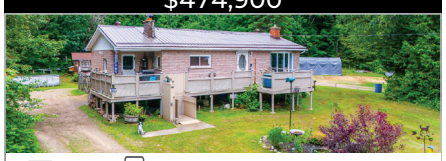
FRED JONES ROAD
$555,000

3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# 40579583

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$549,000

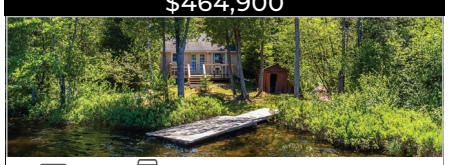
3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40602565

HIGHLAND GROVE
$474,900



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40611581

PORTAGE LAKE
$464,900



2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40597519

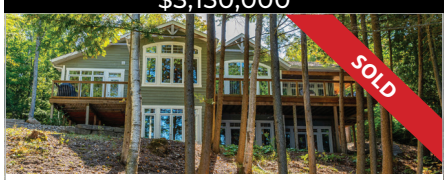
CHANDLER POINT
$68,500
FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

MLS# 40578158

LITTLE REDSTONE LAKE
$995,000

MLS# 40645664

SOYERS LAKE
$3,150,000



MLS# 40645921

HALLS LAKE AREA
$649,000

MLS# 40612338

KENNISIS LAKE
$850,000

MLS# 40645620

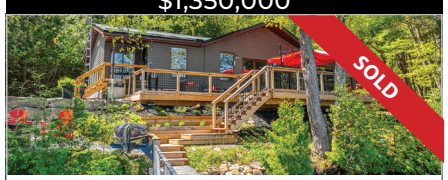
HALIBURTON LAKE
$515,000

MLS# 40605882

BOB LAKE
$625,000

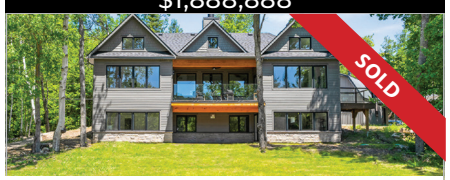
MLS# 40641458

LITTLE KENNISIS LAKE
$1,350,000



MLS# 40588215

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,888,888



MLS# 40548273

Vacant Land For Sale

- Redstone lake — MLS 40641108 — $525,900 — 1.16 Acres
- Harburn Road — MLS 40617452 — $395,000 — 147.08 Acres
- Haliburton Lake Road — MLS 40585911 — $275,000 — 14.53 Acres
- Basshaunt Lake Road — MLS 40647881 — $125,000 — 2.19 Acres
- Bethel Road — MLS 40607822 — $191,000 — 24.65 Acres
- Redstone Lake — MLS 40641882 — $499,000 — 18.4 Acres
- SOLD! Irondale River — MLS 40626811 — $174,900 — 1.30 Acres
- Wenona Lake Road — MLS 40616395 — $109,000 — 0.42 Acres

FEATURED LISTING

LISTED AT - $595,000

1598 Allen Lake Drive

Harcourt Park

Allen Lake

Land Lease

MLS 40634507

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
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contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca
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